

PC36 Community Service

To whom it may concern,

Ahead of the 2019 Federal election, The Haldimand Press discovered that previous hosts of all candidates' debates locally had no plans to hold such events again. Recognizing the need for residents to hear from their candidates on important issues, The Press stepped up to host a debate ourselves. In just two weeks' time we partnered with our local Legion for an event space, sent out the details to candidates, and launched a marketing campaign to inform residents of the date. We had seven candidates and over 100 residents join us, with dozens of questions submitted.

It was a great event, but we knew we could do better.

Fast forward to May 18, 2022 when we hosted an all candidates debate for the provincial race. Now in a larger venue, our in-person attendance grew to around 150 people. More importantly, however, The Press streamed the debate live on Facebook and over Zoom. A couple hundred people tuned in to watch the debate live, and hundreds more watched the recordings in the coming days.

The lead up to this event required significant planning. For one, we had to ensure residents knew about the upcoming debate. This meant creating and distributing newspaper and social media advertisements and articles in the weeks prior. Other distribution methods included email blasts through our local business associations.

We partnered with a local Lions club this time for the venue, knowing their space was not only larger but includes significant improvements to internet access for streaming. Our partnership with a local filmmaker provided us with cameras and a cameraman. Through him, we met with and hired additional professionals to ensure the audio and video streamed seamlessly to those watching at home. While our partner provided some of the technology needed for filming, we still needed a collection of mics for the candidates, a mixing board, and so on. As we live and work in a rural area, this required a drive out to a nearby city to rent the needed supplies, with another drive back to return everything.

We also hired former CHCH news anchor Connie Smith to moderate the event, while our original event was moderated by a co-publisher, who brought in a high level of professionalism and talent.

A Zoom subscription was purchased in advance, and we had to learn to operate a meeting that allowed viewers to participate in the comments without being able to interrupt the video. This included moderating the chat the night of to ensure a reasonable decorum was maintained, a difficult task when people feel so safe behind their screens. The night of also required the set up and take down of several tables for candidates to use before and during the debate, along with seating for everyone in attendance. We provided water, pens, and copies of the newspaper as well.

Questions were received both prior to the event through email and on question slips provided to in-person attendees. With dozens of questions submitted, this required sorting through them all to pull out the questions that were most popular and pertinent to residents, recognizing our limited time.

Following the debate our reporter wrote an overview of the highlights, released both in paper and online, and directed people once again to watch the video in its entirety online.

The feedback from this event was significant and wholly positive. Residents both in person and online, along with the candidates attending, thanked us for hosting the event, noting how well it was run in comparison to other local debates.

While these candidate debates require significant work on our behalf in the weeks leading up to them, we are proud of the service we are providing our community. Not only is it important to vote, but it is important to vote as an informed citizen. By offering this debate not just in person but online through multiple platforms, we ensured that anyone interested in being informed had the opportunity.

This is why the debate was just one piece of our candidate coverage leading up to the election. Additionally, we offered a free profile of every candidate on the ballot; despite being a subscription paper, we left these articles open to the public on our website to ensure a greater reach.

Reaching this goal proved particularly difficult during this year's provincial election as well, since the PC Party put a stranglehold on its candidate in our region – our mayor at the time. He suddenly went silent and refused to attend our debate in the guise of spending that time with constituents, exactly what our debate would have given him. While The Press specifically does not publicly support any political party over another, this transgression could not go unnoted and was marked by a letter to our readers.

Along with offering candidates a platform to share their messaging through advertising, The Press' extensive coverage of our candidate platforms and providing the debate ensured our readers and general community had the best possible chance to be fully informed voters.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kaitlyn Clark

Co-Publisher

# Upcoming golf fundraiser for Parkview Meadows

By Meg Deak  
The Haldimand Press

TOWNSEND—Parkview Meadows Christian Retirement Village is putting the fun in fundraiser with their ninth annual golf tournament at the Green's of Renton on Friday, August 19, 2022.

Parkview Meadows, a non-profit senior's residence, uses fundraisers to support the needs of their residents. The golf tournament is their biggest fundraising event and is set to be a fun-filled day of golfing, prizes, and a dinner.

"In recent years we have been able to, with our fundraising efforts, provide our residents with a greenhouse for horticultural therapy; a 20-seater wheelchair accessible bus for trips and outings; furniture for our Southview new addition; and our Games Room, to name a few," explained Michael Ciardullo, Manager at Parkview Meadows.

This year, Parkview Meadows is looking to raise enough funds to purchase two new duet bicycles. These are a wheelchair and bicycle combined into one, making it possible for residents who would otherwise lack the mobility to cycle themselves to roam outside with the help of family, friends, or staff.

"Due to our recent years with lockdowns and outbreaks, it will be nice to provide all our residents the ability to cycle around the building and enjoy the beautiful scenery and landscape that God has given us around our home," remarked Ciardullo. "We currently have



TOWNSEND—Pauline K., a resident of Parkview Meadows, on their current duet bicycle. —Submitted photo.

one duet bicycle and have had many residents that have enjoyed their adventures around the area with our recreation staff. These will also be available to families wishing to take their loved ones for a bike ride during a visit at any time."

To participate in the tournament, the cost is \$200 per golfer. Businesses can also select a level of sponsorship if interested: "We have sponsorships available with advertising signs placed around the course as well as the addition of your company logo in our quarterly newsletter for one edition of the Parkview Post," Ciardullo explained.

A chicken dinner, with potatoes and vegetables, will be served after the day of golfing and Ciardullo added,

"Anybody who doesn't want to go golfing can also just come for the dinner." The tickets for the dinner are sold separately at \$50 a ticket.

"Other ways to assist would be monetary donations, gift cards, certificates, or gifts that can be used for our raffle tables," noted Ciardullo for those who may want to help but cannot attend the tournament. He continued, "Any donations will get a donation receipt."

Parkview Meadows is also selling raffle tickets as part of the fundraiser. The prize is a trip worth \$2,500 of your choice. Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$25.

Another upcoming fundraising event for Parkview Meadows includes their strawberry-themed goodies sale at the end of June.



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# HALDIMAND NORFOLK PROVINCIAL ELECTION ALL CANDIDATES MEETING

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2022 - CALEDONIA LIONS COMMUNITY CENTRE**  
**7 to 9 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.)**

In person and broadcast live online.

### VIEWING OPTIONS

**Zoom Webinar link:** [us02web.zoom.us/j/82343317817](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82343317817)

**Zoom Webinar ID:** 823 4331 7817

**Facebook Live:** [facebook.com/haldimandpress/](https://facebook.com/haldimandpress/)

**Telephone:** +1 301 715 8592

Hosted by THE HALDIMAND PRESS in partnership with Windecker Road Films

Moderated by former CHCH news anchor Connie Smith

Submit a question for the Q&A to [publishers@haldimandpress.com](mailto:publishers@haldimandpress.com)

Complete pre-election opinion poll at [haldimandpress.com/poll](http://haldimandpress.com/poll) or on Page 19

### SPONSORED BY:



CALEDONIA  
LIONS CLUB



Haldimand Federation of Agriculture all candidates meeting on May 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the Kohler Agriculture Centre  
Simcoe Chamber of Commerce all candidates meeting on May 19 at 6 p.m. at the Simcoe Legion



**VOTE ON JUNE 2, 2022**

# Don't forget: The Press' provincial election debate May 18

By Haldimand Press staff

HALDIMAND — The Haldimand Press is hosting an all candidates debate on May 18 at 7 p.m. at the Caledonia Lions Hall, in person and live streamed online.

The evening will be moderated by former CHCH news anchor Connie Smith and filmed by Windecker Road Films.

Candidates will be given a few minutes for an introduction, which will be followed by a question-and-answer period. Submit a question to publishers@haldimandpress.com.

The Haldimand Federation of Agriculture will be hosting their debate on May 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the Kohler

Agricultural Hall and the Simcoe Chamber of Commerce will be hosting theirs on May 19 at 6:00 p.m. at the Simcoe Legion.

Thank you to the REALTORS® Association of Hamilton and Burlington and to the Caledonia Chamber of Commerce for sponsoring this event.

### VIEWING OPTIONS

**Zoom Webinar Link:**  
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## PRE-ELECTION OPINION POLL (online at haldimandpress.com/poll)

Take part in this pre-election opinion poll to help gauge the public's opinion on important topics. Find it online: at haldimandpress.com/poll or submit by mail (The Haldimand Press, Box 369, Hagersville, ON N0A 1H0) or drop it off at our office at (6 Parkview Road, Hagersville, at the side of the Morison Insurance building). Clip this out and circle your answers. If you are unsure about an answer leave it uncircled.

- YES / NO** Do you approve of the proposed community of 40,000 to be developed near industrial lands in Nanticoke?
- YES / NO** Do you think the government is doing enough to address the current affordable housing crisis?
- YES / NO** Do you support the recent 'Freedom' movement seen locally and across Canada?
- YES / NO** Do you feel the government is doing enough to provide adequate access to general health care services?
- YES / NO** Do you feel that the Provincial government is doing enough to address access to mental health services locally?
- YES / NO** Did the Provincial government handle the COVID-19 pandemic appropriately?
- YES / NO** Is the Provincial government doing enough to address climate change?
- YES / NO** Do you agree with the Provincial government's education plans?
- YES / NO** Do you think that the Provincial government has created an education system that will successfully prepare children for the future?




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# Sheldon Simpson admires traditional conservative values of the Ontario Party

By Mike Renzella  
The Haldimand Press

DUNNVILLE—Professional firefighter and Dunnville resident Sheldon Simpson is troubled by what he sees as divisive politics threatening many facets of our daily lives. He decided to take a stand, and his search for the right platform led him to the Ontario Party, and its leader, Derek Sloan.

"We felt drawn to the community here in Dunnville," said Simpson, who moved to town with his family a year and a half ago. "In very short order we found a community where we were and it just wasn't there."

Simpson, who has progressed to the rank of Active Captain and Command Officer at a Milton-based fire station, said he has a wide assortment of skills to assist in the role of MPP, including emergency management, damage control, and chain of command through his firefighting career and fiscal management experience gained from his years running a landscaping business and helping

his wife run her business as well.

"I also know what a 120-hour work week looks like," said Simpson. "I didn't come from a wealthy family. I came from a broken family, actually.... We struggled and fought our way through and found our way to get back up. That builds the kind of tenacity that certainly is applicable here."

Simpson said that he has noticed a number of lacking societal resources: "Being a professional firefighter I saw a lot of the deficiencies of the health care system."

On education, he added, "We didn't really like some of the stuff that was being done. As very engaged parents, we felt that a lot of our parental controls and protections were being infringed upon."

He said COVID shed a light on other concerning issues: "I found more and more I would ask a question and be told to shut up, or 'mind your business, do as your told'.... Friends, families, and coworkers were starting to be divided.... I thought something has to change."

Simpson said the current inflation and

affordable housing crisis have him seriously concerned for his children's future: "This isn't what we fought and died for, this isn't what Canada is supposed to be, and this isn't how we're supposed to be as a people."

He continued, "Right now we've got an almost regime-style government without a democracy, where one leader tells everyone what to say, what to read, and how to vote. Not necessarily the proportional representation of the constituency itself."

He said that the Ontario Party offers the more traditional conservative values he believes in: "They 100% respect everybody's rights to individuality or freedom.... We have to have the autonomy as an MPP to represent the voice of the constituency," said Simpson, noting the Ontario Party pledge to refrain from implementing a party whip system.

He is also a fan of the party's MPP recall legislation, which would "allow the constituency to hold the MPP accountable. If they're not doing their job, or fulfilling their promises, the constituency is able to do something



Sheldon Simpson

about that.... If we're going to start to build some of this erosion back, we have to have faith and belief in each other, and we have to find a way to sit and listen, even if we disagree. I think that's what the Ontario Party really represents."

Simpson summed up why people should consider supporting him, saying, "I bring a lot to the table as an MPP, not the least of all is the fact that I understand what a hard day's work looks like, and I can sympathize with a lot of the struggles that we're all facing today."

## HALDIMAND COUNTY COUNCIL NEWS

By Mike Renzella  
The Haldimand Press

HALDIMAND—The following items were discussed at Council in Committee on Tuesday, May 10, 2022. Any decisions made then had to be ratified at Council on Monday, May 16. For the full reports, visit [haldimandcounty.ca](http://haldimandcounty.ca).

### Grandview Lodge annual report reviewed; resident family satisfaction up

Grandview Lodge presented its annual report to Council last week. The report included a look at how the facility ran in 2021, and an overview of their 2019-2022 strategic plan.

On the strategic plan, the report highlighted how the ongoing pandemic resulted in a "drastic shift" to create a primary focus on infection control.

The resident turnover rate at the home for 2021 was 29%, or 38 residents. The aver-

age length of stay for residents at the home is 4.2 years, and the average resident age is 82.5.

In terms of resident satisfaction, there were increased numbers across the board compared to 2020, with 98% of resident families saying they would recommend Grandview.

### County to provide an additional \$53,000 toward purchase of firetruck in Caledonia

Council approved an additional budget of \$53,000 toward the purchase of a new fire pumper truck to be placed at Station 1 in Caledonia. The increase is due to increases in the price of the vehicle since the original quote was provided to Council in 2021. A County report lists material supply issues, overseas parts availability, and other economic factors as causes.

The 2022 budget already had \$750,000 allotted toward the purchase, which the County opted in on in a bid to provide local

firefighters with updated technology, such as an onboard generator and a 'clean cab', a relatively new option that will assist firefighters in decreasing their exposure to carcinogenic gases and materials.

### County reveals first quarter insurance activity for 2022

County staff released a report detailing the insurance claims made against the County from January 1 to March 31, 2022. Haldimand had claims filed against them in three categories, with one claim related to Environmental Operations, six related to Roads Operations, and four in the category 'Not County Jurisdiction/Other', which means the claims were made in error.

Typically, claims reported in the first quarter represent 21.6% of the yearly total. With an average annual of 74 claims against the County over the past three years, the data indicates a slight downward trend in claims received.

### Staff recommend against new bylaw

Following a public request in February for the County to investigate implementing regulations for the operation of security cameras and surveillance equipment, County staff have advised against the creation of a bylaw at this time.

While the Municipal Act of 2006 does include provisions allowing for regulation of excessive fortification or surveillance activities, the regulations are more geared toward gangs and not intended for individual security cameras or 'minor' private property issues.

Hamilton has had a bylaw in effect since 2010, which restricts the placement of video surveillance equipment so that it may only monitor the homeowner's land and not beyond.

Staff cited the difficulty in enforcing such a bylaw, along with other means available to combat the issue, including Provincial privacy legislation and civil means, as the main reasons to not create a new bylaw.

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\$8.97

REG. \$13.99



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